

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
IO-13 /079 W  
-----044908 250913Z /20

R 241537Z JUL 78  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7334  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
USMISSION USNATO  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 1748

USEEC

USCINCEUR, USAREUR, USAFE FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY) WB, GW, US  
SUBJECT: REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO BERLIN

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT CARTER'S JULY 15 VISIT TO BERLIN  
RECEIVED POSITIVE COMMENTS FROM ALL SIDES. THE  
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MEDIA (WITH EXCEPTION OF MINISCULE PRO-COMMUNIST PRESS)  
GENERAL PUBLIC AND LEADING POLITICAL PERSONALITIES  
IN THE CITY HAVE, VIRTUALLY WITHOUT EXCEPTION, EXPRESSED  
SATISFACTION WITH THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND HAVE BEEN  
POSITIVE IN THEIR OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF TRIP. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO

BERLIN, WHICH BEGAN IN EARNEST FULL WEEK IN ADVANCE AND REMAINED HEAVY UNTIL THREE OR FOUR DAYS FOLLOWING, WAS WARM AND POSITIVE. SPRINGER DAILIES, WHICH REPRESENT ALMOST 80 PERCENT OF BERLIN'S DAILY CIRCULATION, WENT ALL OUT IN THEIR PICTORIAL AND WRITTEN COVERAGE AND WERE, IN OUR OPINION, LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING LARGE CROWD TURNOUT ALONG PRESIDENTIAL PARTY'S ROUTE.

2. BERLIN TOWN MEETING AND MOTORCADE UP KURFUESTER DAMM IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WERE CLEARLY THE HIGH POINTS OF VISIT. THE ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD ALONG THE "KU-DAMM"--ESTIMATED BY MISSION, WEST BERLIN POLICE AND BERLIN SENAT OFFICIALS TO HAVE BEEN BETWEEN 150,000 AND 160,000, IS THE LARGEST CROWD TO TURN OUT IN WEST BERLIN TO SEE ANY PERSONALITY IN THIS DECADE. THE CROWDS WERE APPROXIMATELY FOUR TIMES THOSE WHICH CAME TO SEE QUEEN ELIZABETH. BERLIN SENAT OFFICIALS TELL US THAT THE SIZE OF THE CROWDS WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE SINCE BERLIN HAS BEEN SO QUIET POLITICALLY FOR SUCH AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME, AND DOES NOT FEEL THE THREAT TO ITS EXISTENCE THAT IT DID WHEN PRESIDENTS NIXON AND KENNEDY VISITED IN 1969 AND 1963. EDITORIAL REACTION TO TOWN MEETING, AND COMMENTS WE HAVE HEARD FROM LARGE NUMBER OF BERLIN OFFICIALS HAVE MADE CLEAR TO US THAT TOWN MEETING WAS THE SINGLE EVENT WHICH WILL MAKE THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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BERLIN MEMORABLE IN THE YEARS TO COME.

3. THE ONLY "CRITICAL" COMMENTS ON SUBSTANCE OF BERLIN VISIT WHICH WE HAVE FOUND IN PRESS TO DATE HAVE COME FROM PRO-EAST GERMAN COMMUNIST WEST BERLIN DAILY, "DIE WAHRHEIT," AND IN COMMENTARY IN ONE COLOGNE DAILY. FORMER WAS GENERALLY NEGATIVE IN HANDLING OF VISIT, LATTER QUESTIONED WHETHER PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE TAKEN SUCH A "HARD LINE" ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, ARGUING THAT QUIET DIPLOMACY HAS DONE MORE TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF DISSIDENTS IN EAST THAN HAVE PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS.

4. POLITICAL IMPACT OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BERLIN IS CONSIDERED BY MOST OBSERVERS TO HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT. GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE WAS DESCRIBED BY MEMBERS OF HIS IMMEDIATE STAFF AS BEING THOROUGHLY SATISFIED WITH EVERY ASPECT OF THE VISIT, AND WAS PARTICULARLY HEARTENED BY THE STRONG SUPPORT PRESIDENT DEMONSTRATED FOR BERLIN. REEMPHASIS OF STRONG TIES WHICH HAVE LINKED AMERICANS AND BERLINERS SINCE THE TIME OF THE BLOCKADE 30 YEARS AGO WAS PICKED UP AND REPLAYED IN PRESS ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS. REAFFIRMATION OF US SUPPORT

FOR BERLIN BY PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE WIDE AND LASTING  
EFFECT AMONG POPULACE. FACT THAT PRESIDENT REACTED WITH  
IRONY AND SCORN TO GDR EFFORTS TO IMPEDE AUTOBAHN  
TRAFFIC AND TO "BEAUTIFY" WALL WAS ALSO WELL RECEIVED.

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R 241537Z JUL 78  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7335  
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5. CDU CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT OF THE BERLIN HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES, PETER LORENZ, PUBLICLY PRAISED  
CARTER FOR HIS EVIDENT CONCERN FOR BERLIN AND ITS  
CITIZENS. LORENZ CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT  
THE PRESIDENT HAD SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE WELL INFORMED  
ON BERLIN ISSUES DURING THE TOWN MEETING AND REMARKED  
THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT DEVIATED ONE IOTA FROM  
THE STEADFAST BERLIN POLICIES OF PAST US ADMINISTRATIONS.  
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LORENZ SAVED HIS WARMEST WORDS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT OF GERMAN REUNIFICATION, HOWEVER, SAYING THAT THE PRESIDENT GAVE ALL GERMANS COURAGE TO HOPE FOR THAT GOAL. END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL STOBBE TOLD MISSION OFFICER JULY 20 THAT HE HOPED VISIT HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL FOR PRESIDENT POLITICALLY, AND ADDED IN CONFIDENCE THAT THE VISIT HAD DEFINITELY "HELPED HIM." (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH LATEST PRIVATE POLITICAL POLLS, TAKEN FOLLOWING THE BAUMANN RESIGNATION, SHOW STOBBE AND THE BERLIN SPD RUNNING AHEAD OF THE CDU, THEY ALSO SHOW THE BERLIN FDP TO BE BELOW THE 5 PERCENT LEVEL, MAKING IT IMPERATIVE THAT STOBBE AND THE SPD WIN A PLURALITY OF VOTES IF THEY ARE TO REMAIN IN OFFICE NEXT YEAR. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE HAVE PICKED UP FROM RANKING SENATE OFFICIALS THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS A STRONG SENSE OF RELIEF THAT THE VISIT WENT SO WELL. FOR STOBBE AND THE SPD, COMING OFF THE BAUMANN AFFAIR, THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT WAS A HIGH RISK OPERATION. IF IT HAD GONE WRONG IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY IT COULD HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY VERY DAMAGING TO THE GOVERNING MAYOR AND HIS PARTY. THE SUCCESS OF THE BERLIN VISIT, WIDELY REPORTED THROUGHOUT THE FRG AND NOT JUST IN BERLIN AS THE HIGH POINT OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO GERMANY, WILL CERTAINLY KEEP STOBBE'S AND BERLIN'S PUBLIC IMAGES BRIGHT THROUGH THE SUMMER MONTHS AND INTO THE AUTUMN POLITICAL SEASON WHEN LOCAL EVENTS WILL BEGIN TO TAKE OVER THE SPOTLIGHT AGAIN. END CONFIDENTIAL. GEORGE

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